

# Why Goods Movement Matters

New Report

## Strategies for Moving Goods in Metropolitan Areas

Cities cannot survive without an effective urban goods movement system. The health of the city's economy is dependent on its ability to accommodate the movement and delivery of goods. The livability that most cities are striving for is directly affected by the congestion and environmental impacts of trucks, the backbone of urban freight systems. To this end, cities can no longer afford to ignore freight and how it interacts with the built environment.

However, moving goods within cities is a complex task with mounting challenges. As places compete on the global stage for businesses and residents, they do not always consider the impact of growth on their ability to effectively move goods. More people and commercial activity increases the demand for goods and services, while at the same time increasing competition for scarce road and sidewalk space. Older cities are also struggling with underinvestment and aging infrastructure. Additionally, actions taken by cities to be pleasant living environments can have unintended consequences that impede goods movement.

The VREF Urban Freight Initiative studies several areas where policy and/or physical interventions could be tailored to address some of the obstacles that impede urban goods movement. Findings and observations are synthesized into a brief, *Why Goods Movement Matters: Strategies for moving goods in metropolitan areas*, which focuses on the challenges and solutions of four topic areas:

- ▶ Livability and Streets
- ▶ Environment
- ▶ Buildings
- ▶ People and Technology

The work conducted by the VREF Urban Freight Initiative takes a significant step towards painting a comprehensive picture of the underlying challenges cities face and developing a set of strategies to address these challenges for policy makers, developers and other key decision makers.



To learn more and read the full report, visit

[GoodsMovementMatters.org](http://GoodsMovementMatters.org)

### About the VREF Urban Freight Initiative

The Volvo Research and Educational Foundations (VREF) Initiative on Urban Freight is playing a key role in filling a critical knowledge gap in urban goods movement and leading efforts to raise the profile of goods movement in planning and policy arenas. The research conducted by this initiative has been synthesized into a report produced by Regional Plan Association, in close cooperation with VREF and three VREF supported research centers: MetroFreight led by the METRANS Transportation Center in Los Angeles, California; Sustainable Urban Freight Systems (SUFS) led by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York; and the Urban Freight Platform (UFP) in Gothenburg, Sweden.

**VREF**

